



## MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 6, 1847.

William Buckminster, Editor.

### THIRD AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

On Tuesday evening about one hundred farmers attended the meeting in the State House. Subject of conversation, *Fruit Trees*. Hon. Mr. Calhoun in the Chair.

Hon. J. C. Gray, who resides in Cambridge in summer, said this had been a favorite subject with him, theoretically and practically, for 20 years past. Mr. G. spoke of the importance of taking up trees carefully on transplanting. He recommended a deep soil to prevent dry sp. Did not recommend waiting, for it was for spreading the roots nicely, but not for shaking the tree to settle the earth around it. He favors the modern plan of keeping the orchard tilted, excluding grass entirely, and growing nothing among the trees. He prefers setting in the spring. He would set apple trees 40 feet apart, (not many practical men will agree to this.) Ed.) He enlarged on the importance of stirring the surface soil often, through the summer.

He objects to excessive pruning, and commanded the celebrated work of Dr. Harris on the borer, canker worm and other insects that infest trees. He liked the wash that we have so often recommended to our readers—potash water, one pound to a gallon.

Rev. Mr. Sanger, of Duxbury, favored the plan of the Ploughman. (The must have meant the Ploughman, Ed.) This was the *girdler*. He did not think trees died by being *sun-struck*. It was this worm, found under the bark; he had cut the worms out high on the trees. (The Ploughman has given a particular account of the operations of this *girdler* within a few months.) Ed.)

Mr. S. W. Cole considered the kind of soil to be chosen for an orchard, of much importance. He would have a soil rather moist and stony. He would have land for trees that was suitable for grass, potatoes and cabbages. Cold moisture serves to keep back the blossoms in spring. He objected to setting up trees 49 feet apart; as only 28 trees could stand on an acre. He would rather set a hundred, and when they came to bear, he could select the best and cut down the poor ones, as they interfered with the others. He thought other crops might be grown advantage while the trees are young and instanced Deacon Moses Jones's farm in Brooklyn, where trees were set thicker and yet other crops are grown between the rows—enough to pay all expenses.

He spoke of the extravagance of the operations of Mr. Peil's orchard, on the Hudson river—called the statements deceptive.

Rev. Mr. Gregory, of Marblehead, did not believe that the Baldwin apple tree was governed by even odd years, as to bearing. The Baldwin has so many good qualities he called it one of the best, if not the best. It is strong and able to withstand the winter.

Mr. Gates, Merriam, of Newton was satisfied it was not the cold winds that made the leaves of the peach tree fall. The worms may all be kept off by washing the trees.

Mr. C. Merriam, Esq., recommended soft soap and water and a little saltpetre for a wash. He would not set trees deep.

Mr. Thaxter spoke of the nourishment that is taken up by the roots. It was strange to him that the *dogfaced* plants did not grow in the woods.

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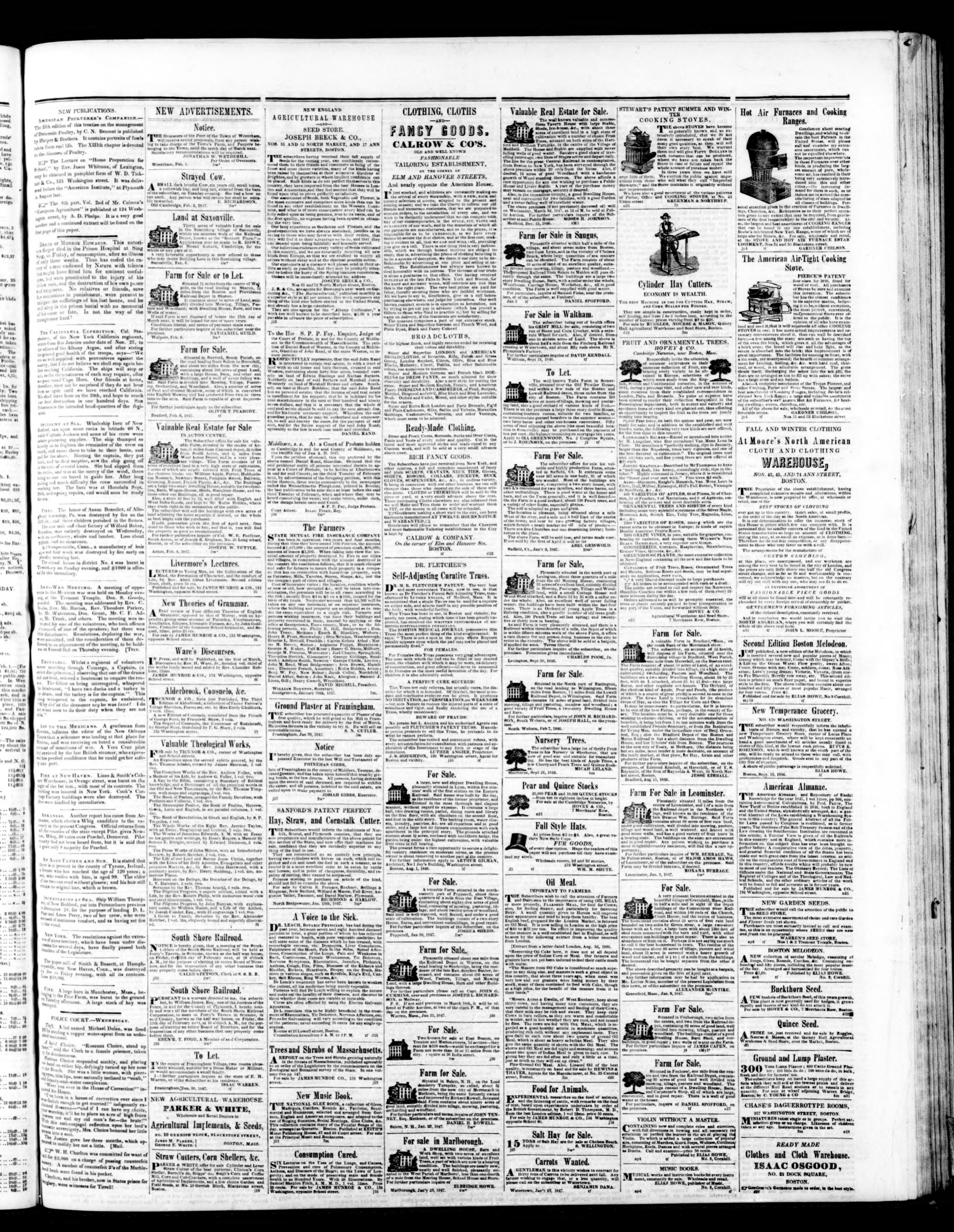
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## THE POET'S CORNER.

ADVERTISEMENT OF A DAY LOST.

BY MRS. MIGUETTE.

*Lost! lost! lost!*  
A gem of costless price,  
Cut from the living rock,  
And graved in Paradise.  
Set round with three times eight  
Large diamonds clear and bright,  
And each with sixty smaller ones,  
All changed as the light.

Lost—where the thoughtless throng  
In fashion's name's wind;  
Where trifles folly's song,  
Leaving a sting behind;  
Yet to my hand 'twas given  
A golden hawk to buy,  
Such as the white-robed choir attires  
To deathless minstrelsy.

*Lost! lost! lost!*  
I feel as much is vain;  
That gem of countless cost  
Can never be mine again;  
I offer on reward.

For till these heart-strings sever,  
I know that Heaven-instructed gift  
Is left away forever.

But when the sea and land  
Like learning scroll have fled,  
I'll see it in His hand  
Who judges quick and dead,  
And when of repute and loss  
That man can never repair,  
The dread inquiry meets my soul,  
What shall it answer there?

## LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

### The Four Phantoms.

A STORY OF ST. MARK'S EVE.

BY H. F. GRATTAN.

*Chapter I.*  
THE QUAREL.

“Sir, there's a dish I love not. I cannot endure

My Lady's Tongue.” [Much Ado about Nothing.]

“Do you hear, Sir Methusalah Rust?”

No answer.

“I have been talking to you for the last half-hour, sir.”

“Bless me, I thought it much longer!”

“I understand your sneer, sir, perfectly; you are getting tired of me. I am properly served; I have no business to marry you—twelve months ago I was my own mistress.”

“I know, my lady, and now you want to be mine.”

“I was a free woman then.”

“And I merely knew the name of slavery.”

“Slavery! Upon my word, Sir Methusalah, you improve!”

“I wish the virtue was infections; I should be delighted to see my whole family inoculated with the same disposition.”

“Sir Methusalah, your intentions are unparable—since our wedding-day, you have become a miserably altered man!”

“Couldn't you have the with an H before the altered?”

“I could indeed if you had your deserts. I am your wife, sir.”

“It's that one of these I willingly dispense with the rest.”

“Sir Methusalah! In one word—do you intend to pass the season in London or not?”

“Not!”

“What do you mean by replying in that abrupt and extraordinary manner, sir?”

“I give it to oblige, but there's no pleasing you!”

“Very good! Very good indeed, sir! I know what you are aiming at; you want to make me lose my temper!”

“I wish you could, and let my worst enemy find it. I ask no more terrible revenge!”

“Do you suppose I married you for this, sir?”

“No.”

“For what then?”

“To convince you that my money could not be had, and that ten thousand a year very frequently buys ten thousand times more plagues than pleasures!”

“Indeed! Very fine! But I won't endure this much longer, sir! What a fool have I been!”

Had I married Mr. Honeyuckle I should have had—”

“To carry out your floricultural cognomen and thus to a fig leaf for your attire.”

“Sir Methusalah, I look upon that as a profane observation; it is a scriptural allusion unbecoming a decent Christian; but never mind, sir! I have a cousin who will seeme right—who will demand satisfaction from you, sir, for my wrongs. Yes, sir, a cousin—and not only a cousin but a friend in the Light Dragoons! The—The—I forget the number of the regiment.”

“I don't my lady—the seventh. I bought him his commission; but certainly not with the pleasant anticipation of becoming his target.”

“That remark is decidedly mean; you are always throwing that trifling purchase in my teeth.”

“Give it a taste of your tongue, my lady; and it will never come within a mile of these.”

“Sir Methusalah, I am not of it, and I trust, I know what is due to you and to myself; it is therefore with extreme pain I now fulfil an imperative but unpleasant duty. Sir, I should only my character with the vile sin of hypocrisy did I not most equivalently assert I consider you a brute.”

“Lady Rust, among many other grievous deficiencies, the result of a neglected education and perhaps defective natural capabilities, I have observed, with surprise and regret, your total ignorance of nature's history; may I suggest to you, to avoid any further display of your weakness, the necessity of studying *Bertron*—you will find in that work a full account of the pages will convince you of the entire impracticability of the application of the term you have just honored me with, and now, good morning, my lady.”

“Good morning, my torment.”

Chapter II.

The conversation recorded above passed be-

tween a gentleman on the Autumnal side of fifty, but still possessed of a pale person, distinguished bearing, and spite of a taste of the vice of keeping eye, and rather more than a taste of it, a very agreeable and amiable person.

Lady Methusalah Rust exchanged her maiden for her present name at the instigation of her friends than from the warm prompting of her own heart.

The disparity of years between the parties was in her prudent mother's opinion only compensated by the very handsome fortune possessed by Sir Methusalah Rust. If he was old, so was his barony; so were the title-deeds of his castle, the tower upon it, and even the very wine in his cellars.

He had it in his power to dower a wife eligibly and provide for scampish younger sons and cousin to the tenth generation.

Besides all this, Sir Methusalah was emphatically a “scholar and a gentleman,” possessed the esteem of his equals and the love and respect of his tenants and dependents.

The house, which in rather forcible language hints at the possibility of persons of pretensions, means, suddenly in a very agreeable exercise, ending their career in very agreeable circumstances, is daily and hourly born out with various modifications. Lady Methusalah Rust was one of its illustrations; the possession of wealth to an amount she never expected rendered her extremely extravagant, and the expenses of her first season in town had been so profuse that Sir Methusalah resolved upon a sequester of his own, and subsequent retrenchment; an arrangement by no means in accordance with the taste or wishes of his dashing and ambitious young wife.

No stone was left unturned to induce him to alter his determination; caresses, promises of prudence, entreaties, and finally peevish complaints and unceasing worrying had been tried in vain; their only effort was to produce a correspondence ill-tempered in the bosoms of the husband and wife; the one frequently twisting the other with disparity of years and receiving for answer provoking allusions to former poverty; all the excellent qualities on either side were overlooked, and they were fast paving the way to a future of disquiet, mutual disgust and unhappiness.

Sir Methusalah began to look upon his for-funness as folly, and Lady Rust merged all the blessing of her early eligibility in the absence of her family's talents, attention, affection, and taste were bad exchange for former privations and freedom, and if the truth must be told each looked upon the other, not as a helpmate and friend, but rather as a clog and incumbrance. My lady at times “wondering how she would look in weeds,” and almost fearing Sir Methusalah would be unpleasant enough to emulate his ancient namesake; while that worthy man once cast his eyes on the hatchment exhibited over the portals of a widowed square, and thought such an emblem on his own mansion, betokening the same bereavement, would scarcely break his heart.

Chapter III.

THE SERVANTS' HALL.

Sir Methusalah Rust's establishment was an extensive one, kept up to the manner of the “Four old English gentlemen.” His domestics, like a good landlord, were a host in themselves; but those whose interests are connected in the present sketch were only three, viz., John Thomas, the butler; Con Sweeny, the groom; and pretty, plump Patty Pride, his own ladies maid.

John Thomas was a thorough-bred Englishman and most unadulterated cockney. London was his native, and he had been educated in the all the sound of “Bowbells”; the selected silver-spoon-mouth portions of society; though he was not so very saucy of prejudices; small portions of every national liking, or antiquity, must have been chopped up, blended together and thrust, even to the risk of bursting into the external cuticle of John Thomas.

John Thomas believed there was such a place as Hiresland, or as in his loquacious mode he termed it, *Ibernia*, thereby multiplying by omission the gratuitous expenditure of the misapplied “H.” and he labored under a delusion—we regret to say not altogether confined to John Thomas—that the British Government supported that man, who were only for “excavators” and scavengers, from motives of the poorest philanthropy.

John Thomas farther imagined the natural produce of the country was turf, potatoes and potesse; and the pastimes of the people burning banks, murdering landlords and taking an annual tithe of Protestant parsons with bludgeons and blunderbusses, instead of allowing them to take scriptural dues.

So much as a general outline of John Thomas's public opinions, an individual demonstration of his more private feelings we will not say. John Thomas, however, was a man of *Patty* pride, and somehow or other “Hiresland” with him were always interlopers, he fancied Con Sweeny kept up the national character, or rather want of it, by doing the same, and, therefore, as far as he could hate, John Thomas hated Con Sweeny.

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